

REMARKS

The above changes have been made to round out the scope of patent protection being sought, and generally to place the claims in better condition for examination on the merits. Claims 5-10, 13-15, and 17-23 are canceled. Claim 4 is amended to correct a typographical error with regard to claim dependency. Claim 24 is added, as previously added in the parent case (U.S. Patent Application No. 09/946,829). Thus, no new matter is submitted.

Early allowance of the claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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